pleasant, attractive appearance, as nice as anyone would want anywhere, unless they were unreasonably exacting. Both blocks have large, pleasant sitting-rooms, dining-rooms, electric light, box-rooms for storing trunks, bicycle storage, package-rooms, and modern plumbing.

Nurses working in London may have a permanent home there, and those visiting London for business or pleasure may stay as transients. The former may obtain *unfurnished* rooms if they wish to have their own furniture and belongings. Such permanent tenants may have their breakfast served in their rooms, and the scale of charges is so arranged that all guests pay for exactly what they have.

Bed and breakfast only is so much. Each meal is for a fixed price. Charges for storage, telephone messages, service, etc., are all fixed and definite, and all exceedingly reasonable. As the scale of prices in one country is not of much practical use in another, I will not try to give them, but a single bedroom with all meals inclusive is about six dollars a week, bed in single room with breakfast only, about seventy-five cents a day, cubicle or double room quite a little less.

The moderate list of regulations is simply such as is found in any hotel, and absolutely no burdensome restrictions or rules exist. Nurses not personally known to the management are required to furnish satisfactory references—this is only proper, and the management reserves the right, which any hotel has, of excluding undesirable persons. Outside of the few necessary stipulations for order and regular routine the utmost freedom is enjoyed, and yet the active and genial ever-ready presence of a "home-sister" and Miss Wood herself give the real home feeling. For any nurse who needs it advice and counsel are always there. No directory is connected with the hotel. Nurses must make their connections for private duty in whatever coöperation or association they please, but calls and messages, letters, telegrams, etc., are punctually delivered or attended to. I cannot but think that there is a great lack in our nursing communities at home as long as we have no such hostel. The business side is that of an incorporated stockholding company, and pays three and one-half per cent. dividend, net.

L. L. D.

LETTER

CAMPANIA MINERA DE PENDES,
MAPIMI,
ESTADO DE DURANGO, MEX.,
September 22, 1904.

DEAR EDITOR: The old saying, "better late than never," certainly fits my case. I hope you will pardon my long delay in complying with your kind request that I describe my surroundings and labors in Mexico.

THE PENOLES MINING COMPANY'S HOSPITAL, MAPIMI, MEXICO

When entering Mexico from either El Paso, Eagle Pass, or Laredo one is impressed with the similarity of the southwestern portion of the United States and Mexico, the country being very flat and the mountains rising directly out of the plains. The lack of water renders the country dry and barren, there being no vegetation but sage-brush and cacti of various kinds. Wherever a stream is encountered a little garden spot is found and all kinds of vegetables and fruits are grown. As one journeys southward the air grows cooler, for the low plains in the northern part become high plateaus in the southern part, terminating about the City of Mexico at an altitude of nearly eight thousand feet, thence sloping down to the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. The beautiful spots of Mexico are those portions which lie between the table-land and the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico.

On the Mexican Central Railroad, about twenty-two hours' ride from El Paso, is the station of Bermejillo (pronounced Bear-may-he-yo), where a small branch narrow-gauge railroad runs up to the town of Mapimi, distant about sixteen miles. On the road one looks in vain for the stopping-place. Finally the train swings around a sharp curve between two hills, when the whole panorama of the smelting works of the Penoles Mining Company and the town of Mapimi spreads out to view. This company has a very large independent smelter, having enormous works, employing at mines and smelter nearly three thousand five hundred men. In 1900 they erected the hospital, which the accompanying photograph shows clearly.

The hospital is built after the Mexican style, which is also the same as the old missions of California, with a patio in the centre, all rooms opening and facing the patio, which usually contains a fountain or large stone basin arranged like an aquarium, flowers and trees, and all kinds of gay-plumaged birds. We have a few trees planted in our patio, but the middle portion is given over to the surgery and the kitchen. The building, being constructed of "adobes," is always cool, as the walls are about two and a half feet thick. It is laid out most conveniently, plenty of baths, hot and cold water, and electric lights. Only employés of the company are admitted, hence we had all male patients. During the year past we admitted one hundred and seventy-six, our average being nine per day, the number of days of patients in hospital being three thousand two hundred and twenty-three. Most of the surgical work is emergencies, mine accidents, amputations, fracture of the skull, smelter accidents, very severe burns, men falling in hot slag or it being splashed on them, railway emergencies, usually amputations. There is a great deal of pneumonia here during March and April, and it is one of the most fatal diseases, especially among the foreigners who are not acclimated. Small-

pox is prevalent among the natives. They have no fear of it, so it is almost impossible to isolate them or prevent its spreading. We have a smallpox ward, but so far have had only one case.

In conclusion, I will say that when one considers the location and the difficulty in fitting up a hospital in a place of this kind we have a most comfortable and convenient institution for the care of the sick and injured. Yours sincerely,

E. THYNE THORNE.

ITEMS

AT the first regular winter meeting of the German Nurses' Association an excellent address was given by Dr. Eugen Israel, advocating a thoroughgoing three-years' hospital course, preliminary qualifications, and State examination with protection of the educational standard. This is really a burning question just now in Germany. The system of training under religious forms and authority is breaking up, and a system of secular training is being evolved. A number of large and magnificent new city hospitals are being built, with bed space for thousands, and the deaconess houses and Red Cross hospital training-schools, with their system of possessing so many nurses and renting them out to hospitals, are quite unable to meet the demands of the present. Their system has become antiquated, it is inflexible, and their training is deficient in the eyes of scientific medicine. The physicians of Berlin are taking a great interest in the evolution of nurses, are writing many articles and disagreeing with one another very emphatically. They now wish the nurse to know everything, but most of them expect her to know it in an impossibly short time. Dr. Israel is almost the only one who sees the impossibility of giving a good training in one or one and a half years. The German Nurses' Association is growing steadily, and Sister Agnes Karll, the president, is a wonderfully skilful and able directress, one who sees into the future, and who estimates human character wisely—from a warm, true heart, but with a well-balanced head. She is many years ahead of her times in nursing questions. On the whole, the physicians have been very cordial and even sympathetic with the "free" nurses organization movement, and have written articles showing great understanding of the nurses' social and economic conditions. The German Nurses' Association was fortunate in having from the outset the support and sympathy of a peculiarly influential and widely respected man, who for many years was in the Prussian and then in the imperial Parliament. The recent death of this strong friend, Herr Praetorius, was a real calamity for the nurses' cause, but for his sake they are finding friends among his friends.

In regard to the position of the London matrons as to registration a correspondent of the *British Journal of Nursing* analyzes the situation thus: "Of the twelve London hospitals which are connected with medical schools, the matrons of St. Bartholomew's, Guy's, and Charing Cross are declared supporters of registration; the matrons of the London, St. Thomas, King's, and Westminster are pronounced opponents, and for the rest—viz., St. Mary's, St. George's, the Royal Free, Middlesex, and University College—it is impossible to say which view they take. Further, among the great Poor Law Infirmaries, containing thousands of beds, there are many matrons who support registration, and the matrons of every one of the infections hospitals under the Metropolitan Asylums Board, representing five thousand beds, uphold it, and have addressed a letter to their board asking its support for this reform.

It is understood that the members of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland are all supporters of registration. Miss Sidney Browne, who is a member of the latter, is matron-in-chief of the Army Nursing Service. Also the matron-in-chief of the Queen's Jubilee Nurses and Miss Wade, superintendent of the Scottish Branch of the Jubilee Nurses, support it, and among the vice-presidents of the Society for State Registration are found such names as Mrs. Garrett Fawcett, Mrs. Scharlieb, M.D., Lady Henry Somerset, Miss Flora Stevenson, LL.D., and a host of others known everywhere by their names and work, and yet the *Hospital* is not ashamed to say that a certain prominent matron, whom it mentions by name, is "only a follower of the adventurers who are running" registration! This is a sample of the kind of opposition the English nurses are having.

The "Blue Book" on nursing, or report of the select committee of the evidence taken in the spring, is now published, and may be had from Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, London, E. C. The price is one shilling (something over should be allowed for postage from the United States), and it is most emphatically so instructive, so important historically, and so interesting that no nurses' library should neglect getting it. The evidence of Dr. Norman Moore and Mr. Sydney Holland deserve special study as monuments of what not to think. These excellent gentlemen are quite unaware that nursing has become more elaborate in detail than it was forty years ago, and that the advance in medical science has at least quadrupled the delicate and complicated details which must be learned by the nurse. We are second to none in our veneration of the pioneers of nursing, but, honoring them as we do, we yet know that the education of the nurse to-day must be vastly different from what it was a half-century back.

A NEW and most attractively bound nursing journal is the *Queen's Nurses' Magazine*, the second number of which has appeared. It is intended as a bond of communication between the nurses and branches of the Queen's Jubilee district nursing service. The contents are extremely interesting and well presented. Not only the Queen's Nurses, but all others, might find pleasure and profit in reading it, and nurses in other countries who are engaged in district nursing ought by all means to take it. The May number contained a history of the "Queen's Nurses," and the September number many additional interesting points relating to the development of the institute, with practical notes, letters from the Berlin Congress, etc., etc. The last number of the *Journal of the Royal South Hants Nurses' League* is also especially interesting, and contains excellent accounts of the Congress. The frontispiece is a lovely photograph of Miss Mollett surrounded by her flock of head nurses.

IT is most gratifying to find the *Australasian Nurses' Journal* commenting cordially and also very seriously upon the movement towards international affiliation, and to read the closing words, "Let us take care that when Miss McGahey takes the seat of honor at the International Council in 1909 she shall be entrusted with the duty of applying for the affiliation of the National Council of Nurses of Australia."

The next quinquennial meeting will be held in Canada, and, besides the president, who brought the link from Australia to America at the Buffalo Congress, and who was so deeply admired and respected by her new associates, we should have also a group of Australian delegates, for the Australian nurses travel, and it should not be hard to find some who are on or near the spot for meeting. Our far-off Australian colleagues should be a great power and influence among more stationary and conservative old-world customs. The oldest ways are not always the best.

MISS LAW, a St. Bartholomew's nurse, and Fraulein Klettner, a German trained in England, have just opened a very beautiful private hospital in Berlin especially designed for English-speaking patients, though open, of course, to all.